

## **LINKING SURVEY & ADMINISTRATIVE DATA**

### **ISSUES**

#### **I. COMPARABILITY & VALIDITY**

- Defining statistics that are directly computable from available administrative and survey data.
- Comparing and reconciling survey and administrative data statistics.
- Strategies for combining the administrative and survey data in our analysis.

#### **II. LOGISTICS/MECHANICS**

- Linking administrative data across program areas.
- Merging large administrative data to find outcomes for leavers.
- Collecting and analyzing state administrative data from unfamiliar files.
- Use of quarterly ES202 employment data in longitudinal analysis with other monthly administrative data.

#### **III. NEW NATIONAL DATABASES**

- Access to Federal data (e.g., New Hire).
- Status of national longitudinal databases and the extent to which they are being used in the leaver studies?

## Comparing Measures from Administrative and Survey Data Sources

| <i>Overlapping Measures</i>   | <i>Administrative</i>   | <i>Survey</i>   |
|---|---|---|
| Employment/Earnings   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarterly reporting</li> <li>Missing earnings from some jobs- non-covered jobs, out-of-state, federal jobs.</li> <li>Problems with SSNs</li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Time period can vary: monthly, quarterly, weekly, etc.</li> <li>Tend to produce higher earnings</li> <li>Response bias</li> </ul>  |
| Income: Self , Family Members in Household, Combined  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respondent</li> <li>Administrative measure (Fewer income sources):<br/>Based on what is captured in admin records (for example, FS,AFDC/TANF, UI, Child Support)</li> </ul>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respondent &amp; household members</li> <li>Pick up a number of income sources-i.e., alimony, earnings of others in the hh, cash contribution from friends, family, etc.</li> <li>Can mis-estimate income of other hh /family members</li> </ul> |
| Benefit Receipt, Benefit Amount, Spells:<br>1. AFDC<br>2. Food Stamp<br>3. Medicaid Eligibility<br>4. Other | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Longitudinal data: retrospective &amp; prospective</li> <li>Produces somewhat higher receipt rates, benefit amounts</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Varies, but narrower window of observation</li> </ul>  |
| Transitional Benefits<br>1. Medicaid<br>2. Child care<br>3. Transportation<br>4. Other                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data Availability</li> <li>Data Integration</li> <li>Mechanics of file linkage</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reasons for not using TA benefits</li> <li>Awareness of source of funding</li> </ul>   |
| Program Participation<br>1. Job Search<br>2. Education & Training   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Longitudinal information – periods of participation, types of programs, provider information</li> </ul>  |   |
| Emergency Assistance, Diversion<br>Reasons for benefit termination, sanctions                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data Availability</li> <li>Data Integration</li> <li>Codes used by administrative agency need not map codes used in surveys</li> <li>Overwriting sanctions and exit codes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness of diversion program and services</li> </ul>   |
| Household size/Household Composition  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of individuals receiving a benefit- case size as proxy for household size</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self report</li> <li>Could include individuals not part of the assistance case</li> </ul>  |

